

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-10 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14

OMB-01 DRC-01 /131 W

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O R 281700Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2920

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR WORKING GROUP STATUS REPORT

REF: USNATO 5732

1. IS HAS CIRCULATED ANNEX I TO C-M(73)119 WHICH CONSISTS OF PROGRESS REPORT BY THE MBFR WORKING GROUP (TEXT BELOW). REPORT WILL BE ATTACHED AS AN ANNEX TO SPC'S PROGRESS REPORT ON ALLIANCE WORK IN MBFR (TEXT REFTEL), WHICH NAC WILL CONSIDER AT ITS MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29. MISSION FINDS TEXT UNOBJECTIONABLE AND RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SPC REPORT IN TIME FOR NOVEMBER 29 NAC.

BEGIN TEXT.

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE MBFR WORKING GROUP

BACKGROUND

THE MBFR WORKING GROUP LAST REPORTED (1) FORMALLY IN JUNE 1973. SINCE THAT TIME, WORK HAS CONTINUED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO START, AND LATTERLY HAD STARTED, ON 30TH OCTOBER, 1973. THIS HAS MEANT THAT, INCREASINGLY, THERE HAS BEEN A NEED TO BALANCE CAREFULLY THE SPEED AT WHICH WORK HAD TO BE PRODUCED AGAINST THE NECESSITY FOR COMPLETE ACCURACY

AND AGREEMENT. IN VIEW OF THE TECHNICAL AND MILITARY WORK CONCERNED, THIS INVOLVED THE WORKING GROUP AND CAPITALS, AT TIMES, IN PRODUCING ADVICE TO THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT SHORT NOTICE, YET IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS TEMPO OF WORK, IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA, WILL CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

PROGRESS

2. STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED, OR ARE BEING PURSUED ON THE SUBJECTS MENTIONED BELOW:

(A) CONSTRAINTS AND STABILISING MEASURES

(1) STABILISING MEASURES. THE WORKING GROUP ARE EXAMINING THE TECHNICAL AND MILITARY FEASIBILITY, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SPECIFIC STABILISING MEASURES DERIVING FROM THE GERMAN, UK AND US PAPERS OF 7TH, 8TH AND 12TH NOVEMBER, 1973 RESPECTIVELY, WITH THE AIM OF ASSISTING THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. THE WORKING GROUP REPORT WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

(2) MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS. WORK IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED ON THE SECOND (2) AND THIRD(3) REPORTS ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS. THESE REPORTS DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, CERTAIN OF THE POSSIBLE MEASURES LISTED AS REQUIRING STUDY: C-M(73)83(FINAL, PARAGRAPHS 23, 29 AND 30.

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- (1) AC/276-D(73)1, 8TH JUNE, 1973
(2) AC/276-WP(73)16(REVISED), 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1973
AC/276-WP(73)16/1, 9TH OCTOBER, 1973
(3) AC/276-WP(73)38, 7TH NOVEMBER, 1973
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(B) VERIFICATION. THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THE US PAPER(1) WHICH DESCRIBED POSSIBLE METHODS OF INSPECTION BOTH DURING AND AFTER REDUCTIONS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE TWO BASIC NATO PAPERS ON VERIFICATION(2) AND ACCEPTABILITY OF INSPECTION MEASURES(3). A COMPARISON OF THESE PAPERS WAS PRODUCED(4), WHICH SHOWED THAT THERE WAS NO MAJOR CONFLICT OF THOUGHT BETWEEN THE APPROACHES. AS A RESULT OF A FURTHER REQUEST BY THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE(5), THE WORKING GROUP ARE SEEKING TO DETERMINE URGENTLY THE FEASIBILITY AND MAIN TECHNICAL AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE MEASURES. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PRODUCE QUICKLY FOR THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE,

AS A FIRST STEP, USEFUL COMMENT AND ADVICE ON THE VARIOUS POSSIBLE VERIFICATION METHODS(6). THEREAFTER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXAMINE IN MORE DETAIL THE APPLICATION AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE VARIOUS POSSIBLE SYSTEMS OF VERIFICATION.

(C) DATA

(1) GROUND FORCES. AGREED DATA FOR NATO AND WP GROUND FORCES HAS BEEN ISSUED(7); HOWEVER, WORK CONTINUES ON UPDATING THESE FIGURES IN THE LIGHT OF NEW INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

(2) AIR FORCES. AS A RESULT OF THE WARSAW PACT INTRODUCTION AT VIENNA OF A PROPOSAL WHICH COULD INVOLVE DISCUSSION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER, URGENT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ACQUIRE AND PUBLISH ASSESSMENTS OF THE NATO AND WARSAW PACT AIR FORCE MANPOWER WITHIN THE NATO GUIDELINES AREA.

(D) TACTICAL AIR. WORK HAS CONTINUED ON THE TACTICAL AIR STUDY WHICH CONSIDERS THE MUTUAL REDUCTIONS OF TACTICAL AIR FORCES IN THE NATO GUIDELINES AREA. A DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF AN AIR CAMPAIGN IN CENTRAL EUROPE HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN, THE FIRST RESULTS OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING EXAMINED, INCLUDING THE EFFECTS OF SELECTED REDUCTION OPTIONS. THE SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR REPORT IS EXPECTED EARLY IN 1974.

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- (1) USNATO(POL)OUT/NS/73-120, 5TH OCTOBER, 1973
 - (2) AC/276-WP(70)35(REVISED), 4TH NOVEMBER, 1970
 - (3) AC/276-D(72)1, 22ND MARCH, 1972
 - (4) DCMCM-15-73, 25TH OCTOBER, 1973
 - (5) AC/119-R(73)130, ITEM II.(1)(B)
 - (6) AC/276-WP(73)43, NOVEMBER 1973
 - (7) AC/276-WP(73)4(2ND REVISE), 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1973
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(E) WARNING TIME. THE SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL WARNING TIME OF POSSIBLE AGGRESSION, WHICH MIGHT BE GAINED BY REDUCTIONS AND/OR COLATERAL MEASURES, CONTINUES AND IT IS INTENDED TO PRODUCE A REPORT BY THE END OF 1973.

(F) REDUCTION OPTIONS. STUDIES(1)(2)(3) HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON REDUCTION OPTIONS PROPOSED BY BELGIUM, THE UK AND THE US AND THE ASSOCIATED SHAPE ASSESSMENTS.

(G) COMBAT CAPABILITY. THE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSED THE MEASUREMENT OF COMBAT CAPABILITY, WHICH INCLUDES FACTORS SUCH AS MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT, WEAPON EFFECTIVENESS, MANNING LEVELS, LOGISTICS AND THE UN-QUANTIFIABLE

SUCH AS LEADERSHIP, MORALE AND DISCIPLINE, THEY
PUBLISHED AN AGREED REPORT(4).

(H) MOBILISATION. THE CURRENT PAPER(5) ON THE MOBILISATION
OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND AND AIR FORCES IS UNDER
REVISION IN THE LIGHT OF NEW DATA. IT IS HOPED TO
PRODUCE AN AGREED REPORT IN DECEMBER 1973.

(J) PRE-POSITIONING OF EQUIPMENT. A STAFF GROUP PAPER(6)
OUTLINES THE MAIN FACTORS AND DISCUSSES THEIR
IMPLICATIONS. STUDIES CONTINUE.

(1) AC276-D(73)3, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1973
(2) AC/276-D(73)5, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1973
(3) AC/276-D(73)6, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1973
(4) AC/276-D(73)4, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1973
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(5) AC/276-WP(73)2(REVISE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05751
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731165/abqcednf.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 5732
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR WORKING GROUP STATUS REPORT
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005